

Patent Abstracts of Japan

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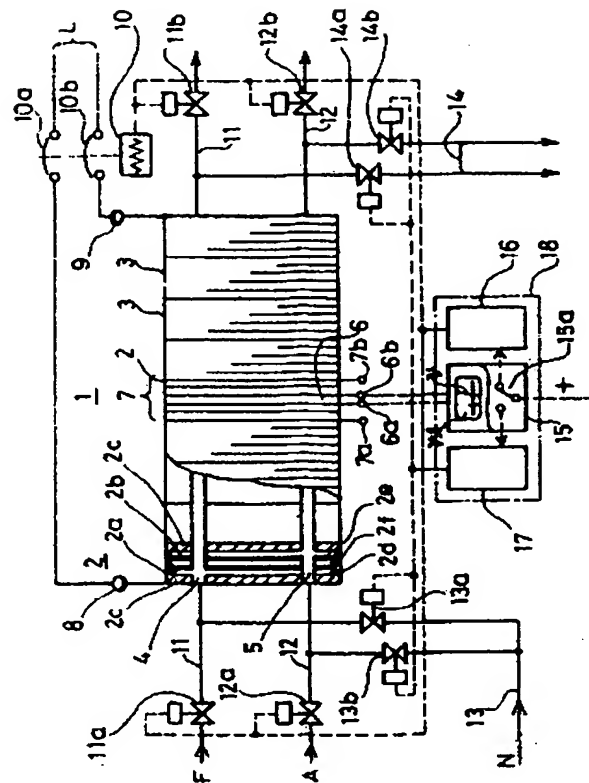
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APPLICANT : FUJI ELECTRIC CORP RES & DEV
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TITLE : SAFETY PROTECTION OF STACKED
FUEL CELL



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To early detect deterioration of a unit cell and protect damage of a fuel cell based on this foreseen detection to assure safety operation by continuously monitoring operating voltage of a specific unit cell with a voltage monitor.

CONSTITUTION: A fuel cell main body 1 is comprised of a plurality of unit blocks 3 formed by stacking multiple unit cells 2. A specific unit cell 6 whose early deterioration is foreseen from data obtained at the start of power generation of the cell is selected. A limit value of voltage at which polarization occurs is set based on a kind or amount of catalyst contained in an electrode. A voltage monitor 15 continuously watches the specific unit cell whether its operating voltage drops under the limit value. When operating voltage drops under the setting value, power generation of its unit cell is automatically stopped. Since voltage watch on all of hundreds of unit cells is not necessary, a voltage monitor or a voltage monitoring circuit is simplified.

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